

Is The Restored Gospel A Myth?

5) And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. (2 Nephi 30)

This is the only scripture in the Book of Mormon that even comes close to associating the word "Restore" and the word "Gospel". Additionally, even though I reject the D&C as God's word, the same applies for it. There is no such thing voiced from God or purported to be from God as "The Restored Gospel". The section heading to D&C 34 is the only usage of "Restored Gospel" extant in anything considered scripture by the LDS.

The Lord primarily uses the word restore in most cases when speaking of the House of Israel being gathered and also the resurrection from the dead. His gospel has always been here; albeit the great and abominable church has held back plain and precious points of doctrine.

I recognize that the "Gospel" and the "Church" are two different things, but ponder these verses from the Book of Commandments:

4) And for this cause have I said, if this generation harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them. Now I do not say this to destroy my church, but I say this to build up my church: therefore, whosoever belongeth to my church need not fear, for such shall inherit the kingdom of heaven: but it is they who do not fear me, neither keep my commandments, but buildeth up churches unto themselves, to get gain; yea, and all those that do wickedly, and buildeth up the kingdom of the devil...

17 Behold this is my doctrine: whosoever repenteth, and cometh unto me, the same is my church: whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me: therefore, he is not of my church.

18 And now, behold whosoever is of my church, and endureth of my church to the end, him will I establish upon my Rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. (Chapter 9)

So, this begs the question: was Joseph Smith an instrument of restoration; or was he a person who was given a gift to translate a record that eventually would be used to help restore the House of Israel to Jesus Christ? Or is it a moot point?